

Tailor Shop
Clifton Townsite
Park Avenue
Clifton
Greenlee County
Arizona

HABS No. AZ-185

HABS
ARIZ
6-CLIFT
16-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

TAILOR SHOP

HABS No. AZ-185

HABS
NP12
6-CLFT
16-

Location:

Clifton Townsite, Park Avenue, Clifton, Greenlee County, Arizona

Significance:

Associated with commerce in Clifton and the development of Clifton.

Description:

This one-story brick commercial building is one of several side-by-side along Park Avenue. Typical of many others in Clifton, it is of the Panel-Brick Commercial style. The building has a flat roof with parapets. The west front parapet, and the portion of the south parapet which is visible from Park Avenue, is decorated with a corbelled cornice with brick dentils and inset panels. The entry is recessed, forming a small porch and includes an off-center entry door flanked by a storefront window. The rear of the building has an entrance door flanked by two double-hung windows.

History:

This one story brick building was constructed ca. 1907 as a tailor shop. It was originally constructed by Mr. Crawford whose tailor shop was heavily damaged in the December 1906 flood. The Arizona Copper Company leased the building to several tailors over the years and in later years Phelps Dodge leased the building to barbers for a barber shop.¹

A mining town such as Clifton had a strong need for tailors to repair clothes that often received heavy use. In the days before people purchased ready to wear clothing in many different sizes at department stores, the local tailor served an important need in the community by altering clothing to fit. In 1910 W.E. Kelly purchased the Clifton Tailor Shop from Mr. Crawford. Kelly re-painted and remodeled the interior of the building. By 1922, George O'Connell had purchased the Clifton Tailor Shop. One year later he sold the shop to Trinidad Vesquez. In later years Frank Springer of the Fashion Barber Shop took over the building for use as a barber shop. In 1927 L. C. Brock leased the barber shop from Springer. In the late twenties and thirties, the building was converted to use as a beauty parlor for women. Operators included Berdina R. Ward and Mrs. J. W. Smith.²

Sources (endnotes):

1. Sanborn fire insurance maps, 1904, 1908, 1914, 1931; 1921 Arizona Copper Company base map; Copper Era December 13, 1906 (I, 1: 1-5).
2. Copper Era August 5, 1910 (I, 3: 2); May 12, 1922 (I, 1: 2); October 19, 1923 (I, 3: 1); March 19, 1927 (I, 5: 3); January 19, 1929 (I, 5: 2); February 9, 1929 (I, 1: 6); April 4, 1931 (I, 1: 6).

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